

Washington, DC – U.S. Representatives Ciro D. Rodriguez, Henry Cuellar, Charles A. Gonzalez and Lamar Smith announced Wednesday that an additional \$16 million has been allocated for the San Antonio Channel Improvement Project to fully fund completion of Phase 2A of the Mission Reach Ecosystem Restoration Project.

“This additional Army Corps of Engineers funding for the Mission Reach Ecosystem Restoration Project is great news for our community,” said Congressman Ciro Rodriguez, who sits on the House Appropriations Committee. “We all know the jewel that we have in the San Antonio River and restoring its natural beauty not only honors our heritage but bolsters a key economic generator as well.”

Judge Nelson Wolff called the funding “a very pleasant surprise. We’ve known all along that this is a top-notch project and we’re happy the Corps of Engineers agrees with that and considers it worthy of funding. I’m pleased with the leadership our entire delegation has exhibited through the years in their support of the Mission Reach.”

“In challenging financial conditions, the Mission Reach is not only an essential part of the economic growth of the South Side, but of the San Antonio River and the metropolitan area as a whole,” said Congressman Lamar Smith. “It will help unify our community and lay the foundation for future prosperity. The San Antonio Congressional delegation supports this project and will county to work with the City and the County to help ensure its long-term success.”

“This funding is another example of recovery dollars at work,” said Congressman Cuellar. “The Mission Reach project enjoys broad support in our community and I am pleased to see that phase two is continuing. Numerous environmental and neighborhood organizations will greatly benefit from this funding.”

Congressman Gonzalez noted that the project has long been a priority for city and county leaders. “The Corps of Engineers funding is crucial to the successful completion of the Mission Reach plan. I am gratified that the concerted efforts of local leaders, working with the congressional delegation, have resulted in this latest funding source.”

The funding is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which has provided billions in stimulus funding for shovel-ready projects throughout the country and Bexar County. Previous stimulus funding of \$9.4 million was previously allocated for the project.

In FY08, \$10 million was secured for the Channel Improvement Project and again in FY09. In FY10, the House appropriated another \$1.5 million and the Senate appropriated \$5 million.